

## **ABSTRACT**

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Epilepsy is a serious chronic disease affecting all ages which can be characterized by recurrent epileptic attacks. It affects about 1,3-4 % of the population and endangers the patient's life at every incoming attack. Long-term treatment must be preceded by thorough diagnosis and classification of the disease, which can be very difficult. The aim of the treatment is to prevent recurrent epileptic attacks, or at least mitigate them while minimizing the side effects of the treatment and reducing the negative impact on the quality of life. When choosing a suitable drug for an adult, the doctor usually decides individually depending on the type of epileptic attack. In children, the choice of the treatment often depends on the diagnosed type of syndrome, which appears more in the lower age category than in adult patients. The doctor should follow expert standards of the treatment of epilepsy, and also their own most recent experience and knowledge gained during the course of lifelong learning. The therapy begins with monotherapy, and only when not successful, it is necessary to proceed to polytherapy with more drugs. Antiepileptic drugs may be divided into three categories to classical pharmaceuticals, newer pharmaceuticals, and those in various stages of clinical research possessing anticonvulsant potential. Neurosurgical treatment is individually indicated in pharmaco-resistant epilepsy. Such treatment can remove the underlying cause of the illness and cure the patient completely. Non-pharmacological therapy, which includes psychological help, EEG biofeedback and ketogenic diet only complement the anticonvulsants.